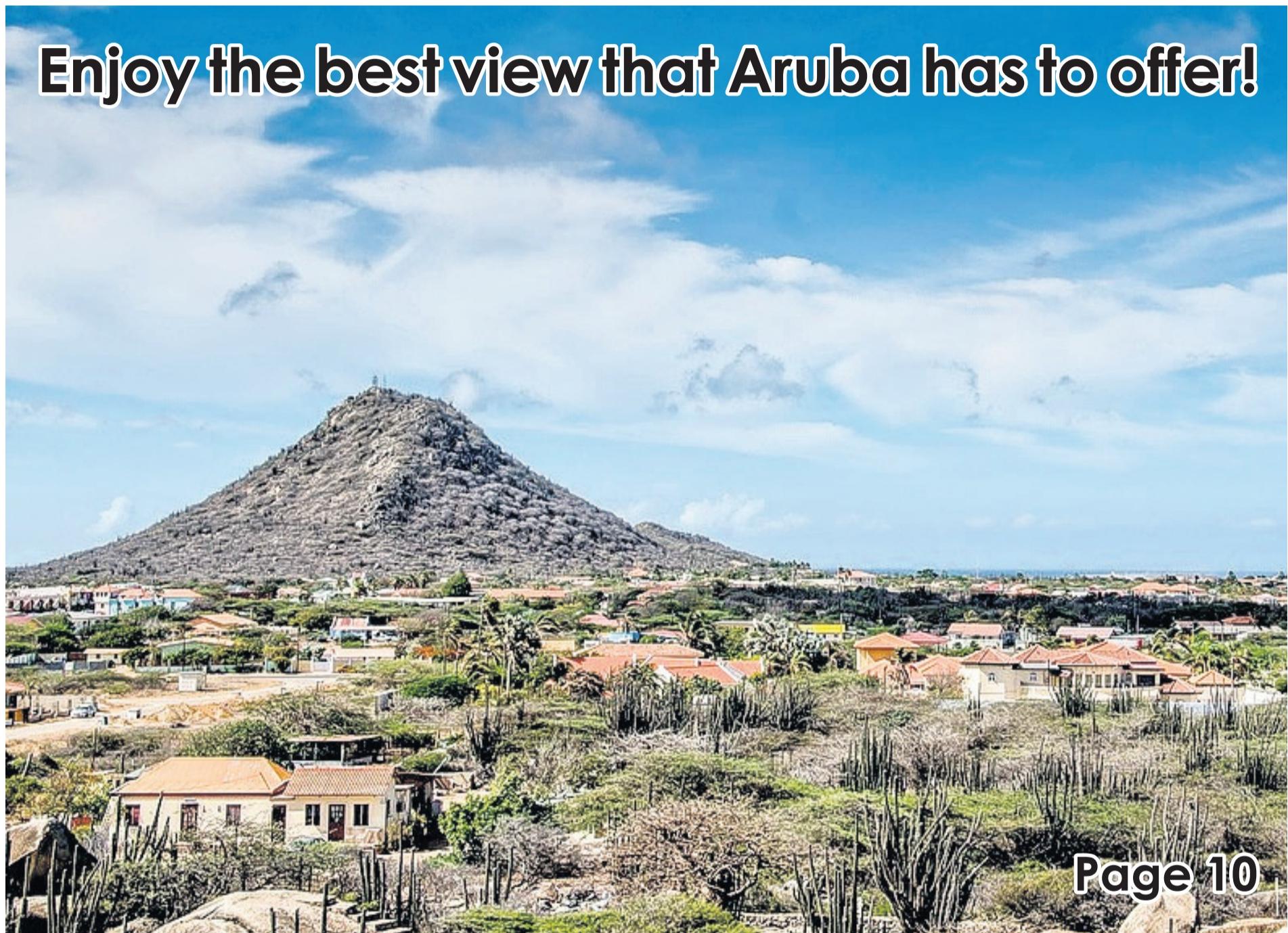




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US sanctions group that builds illegal West Bank settlements, with close ties to Israeli government

By FATIMA HUSSEIN and

JULIA FRANKEL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

U.S. on Monday imposed sanctions on organizations and firms involved in illegal settlement development in the occupied West Bank, including a well-established decades-old group that has close ties with Israeli leadership.

Treasury sanctioned Amana, the largest organization involved in illegal settlement development in the West Bank, and its subsidiary Binyanei Bar Amana Ltd. Already sanctioned by Britain and Canada, Amana is one of the major funders and supporters of unauthorized settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Peace Now, a settlement tracking group, says its assets are valued at around 600 million Israeli shekels, or about \$160 million, and that it has a yearly budget stretching into tens of millions of shekels.

Amana, which is based in the West Bank and has no known connection to the U.S. appliance maker, over the past few years has underwritten loans, signed contracts, bought equipment and funded infrastructure projects for new settlements, according to Peace Now. The settlements, small farming out-



A general view of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

Associated Press.

posts, have become some of the primary drivers of violence and displacement of Palestinians living in the West Bank.

Additionally, the State Department imposed diplomatic sanctions on Eyal Hari Yehuda Co., which provides construction logistics to sanctioned groups, as well as company owner Itamar Yehuda Levi. The co-founder of the already sanctioned nonprofit group

Hashomer Yosh, Shabtai Koshlevsky, and Israeli citizen Zohar Sabah, who has perpetrated acts of violence on Palestinians, also were hit with sanctions.

The penalties come as settlers in the territory celebrate the incoming Trump administration, believing it will likely take a more favorable approach to the settlements. During his first term, Trump took unprecedented steps to support Israel's territorial claims, including recognizing Jerusalem as its capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there, and recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Treasury's Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo said the U.S. "remains committed to holding accountable those who seek to facilitate these destabilizing activities, which threaten the stability of the West Bank, Israel, and the wider region." Among other things, the sanctions deny the people and firms access to any property or financial assets held in the U.S. and prevent U.S. companies and citizens from doing business with them.

In February, President Joe Biden issued an executive

order that targets Israeli settlers in the West Bank who have been accused of attacking Palestinians and Israeli peace activists in the occupied territory. That order is used to justify the financial penalties against the companies and men.

In response, Texans for Israel, a Christian nonprofit, Israeli nonprofit Regavim and others in August sued the Biden administration in Amarillo, Texas, over its sanctions against Israeli extremists in the West Bank.

Eitay Mack, a human rights lawyer who has spent years campaigning for the sanctions on violent West Bank settlers, said the sanctions on Amana were "an earthquake for the settlement project and especially the shepherds farms."

He called on the U.S. to extend the sanctions now to firebrand Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, also a far-right settler in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet.

Amana's leadership has appeared at pro-settlement events alongside Cabinet members. Peace Now says the group's secretary-general, Zeev Hever,

was greeted by Smotrich at a June conference where Smotrich laid out his plans for the West Bank.

Violence against Palestinians and their displacement have only picked up since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7, 2023. Around 8,000 Palestinians have been displaced in the West Bank during that time and over 700 killed, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Palestinian health officials.

The Associated Press previously reported that the sanctions measures have had minimal impact, instead emboldening settlers as attacks and land-grabs escalate, according to Palestinians in the West Bank, local rights groups and sanctioned Israelis who spoke to AP. Additionally, Smotrich has previously vowed to intervene on sanctioned settlers' behalf. Israel captured the West Bank along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want those territories for their hoped-for future state.

Settlement growth and construction have been promoted by successive Israeli governments stretching back decades, but it has exploded under Netanyahu's far-right coalition, which has settlers in key Cabinet posts. There are now well over 100 settlements and 500,000 Israeli settlers sprawling across the territory from north to south — a reality, rights groups say, dimming any hopes for an eventual two-state solution.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said "we once again call on the Government of Israel to take action and hold accountable those responsible for or complicit in violence, forced displacement, and the dispossession of private land. The United States will continue to promote accountability for those who further destabilize conditions in the West Bank and support extremist violence in the region." □



Palestinian laborers work at the site of a new housing project in the Jewish West Bank settlement of Beit El, Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.

Associated Press.

Biden seeks nearly \$100 billion in emergency disaster aid after Hurricanes Helene and Milton

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is requesting nearly \$100 billion in emergency disaster aid after Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and other natural disasters, telling lawmakers that the money is "urgently needed."

The letter Monday to House Speaker Mike Johnson comes as lawmakers meet during a lame-duck session to finish key priorities before making way for a new Congress and the incoming Trump administration. Biden said he has met firsthand with those harmed by the storms and he heard what residents and businesses needed from the federal government. "Additional resources are critical to continue to support these communities," Biden said. The largest share of the money, about \$40 billion, would go to the main disaster relief fund at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Biden said the fund would face a shortfall this budget year without additional money.



President Joe Biden speaks following a briefing by federal, state, and local officials in St. Pete Beach, Fla., during a tour of areas affected by Hurricane Milton, Oct. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

He said that would not only affect the agency's ability to provide lifesaving assistance to survivors, but also would slow recovery efforts from prior disasters. An additional \$24 billion would help farmers that have experienced crop or livestock losses, and \$12 billion would go toward com-

munity development block grants administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Some \$8 billion more would help rebuild and repair highways and bridges in more than 40 states and territories. The administration is also seeking \$4 billion for long-term water system

upgrades to mitigate future damage from natural disasters. Several other agencies would also receive emergency funds if Congress agrees to the request. Lawmakers were expecting a hefty number from the administration. Johnson, R-La., said Congress will evaluate the request and

"we'll make sure we deliver for the hurricane victims and the people that have suffered from that."

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to hear Wednesday from the heads of several of the government agencies that would receive funding through Biden's request. It's possible that emergency aid could be attached to any spending bill designed to keep federal agencies operating after current funding expires Dec. 20.

Biden noted that Congress had provided more than \$90 billion in aid after Hurricane Katrina nearly two decades ago, and more than \$50 billion after Hurricane Sandy in 2013. He urged Congress to take "immediate action." "Just as the Congress acted then, it is our sworn duty now to deliver the necessary resources to ensure that everyone in communities reeling from Hurricanes Helene and Milton and those still recovering from previous disasters have the Federal resources they need and deserve," Biden wrote. □

Court-martialed military veteran sentenced to over 4 years in prison for Capitol riot attack

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former U.S. Army soldier who was court-martialed for fatally shooting a handcuffed civilian in Iraq two decades ago was sentenced on Monday to more than four years in prison for his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Edward Richmond Jr. attacked police officers with a metal baton during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol. Richmond, 41, of Geismar, Louisiana, said he immediately regretted his actions that day.

"It was wrong. It was foolish. It was not thought-out. It was spur of the moment," Richmond said before U.S. District Judge John Bates sentenced him to four years and three months be-

hind bars.

The judge said Richmond appeared to be genuinely remorseful for joining one of the most violent episodes of the Capitol riot a clash between rioters and outnumbered officers inside a tunnel entrance.

"Your conduct was pretty terrible. You've recognized that," Bates said.

More than 1,500 people have been charged with federal crimes stemming from the Capitol riot. More than 650 of them have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from a few days to 22 years. Several Jan. 6 riot defendants have asked judges to pause their cases until after President-elect Donald Trump takes office, citing his campaign vow to pardon supporters who

stormed the Capitol after his "Stop the Steal" rally near the White House on Jan. 6. Judges have largely rejected those requests and forged ahead with plea hearings and sentencing as scheduled.

Richmond didn't ask for his sentencing to be delayed. His lawyer, John McLindon, said after the hearing that such a request seemed like a "waste of time."

Prosecutors recommended a prison sentence of five years and three months for Richmond, who will get credit for roughly nine months that he already has served in jail since his arrest. Richmond was wearing a helmet, goggles and other military-style tactical gear when he attended then-President Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally near the White

House on Jan. 6. After marching to the Capitol, he joined other rioters in a

"heave ho" push against police officers guarding a tunnel entrance. □



This image from police body-worn camera video, contained and annotated in the Justice Department's statement of facts, supporting the arrest warrant for Edward Richmond Jr., at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump's treasury pick could give an indication of what he plans to do about tariffs

By JOSH BOAK and FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's decision on a treasury secretary is about far more than whose name will be printed on America's money.

The choice of how to fill his highest-profile outstanding Cabinet selection will be the clearest indication yet of how he intends to wield import tariffs in his new administration.

The leading candidates for the role have expressed differing perspectives on how Trump should use the protectionist trade policies that he put front and center in his campaign for the White House, while Trump himself has offered seemingly contradictory views.

Billionaire investor Scott Bessent, considered a leading candidate, has talked up tariffs as a negotiating ploy. Another prominent contender, Cantor Fitzgerald CEO Howard Lutnick, has expressed more support for broad tariffs. Lutnick is co-chair of Trump's transition operation and is helping put forward candidates for key roles, including the Treasury Department.

Trump is also looking at other potential candidates as he decides who can best implement his economic agenda and how big a role tariffs will play.

The president-elect, during this year's campaign, portrayed the taxes on imports as both a negotiating tool to hammer out better trade terms and as a way to generate revenue to fund tax cuts elsewhere.

The Republican has proposed universal tariffs of as much as 20% and taxing Chinese imports at 60% or more, yet his campaign never filled in key details about how tariffs would be imposed and whether the goal was more about funding the government or pressuring trade partners.

The two are competing priorities: achieving sustainable long term revenues from tariffs isn't possible if



President-elect Donald Trump arrives to speak at a meeting of the House GOP conference, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2014, in Washington.

Associated Press.

they're a negotiating tool, and sustaining them for the long term could constrain the growth Trump has promised to bring to the country.

The lack of clarity has spilled over to Trump's choice of treasury secretary, as tariffs run the risk of worsening inflation and also disrupting the stock market gains since the election that have been a point of pride for the president-elect.

Bessent told Bloomberg News in August that he views tariffs as a "one time price adjustment" and "not inflationary," and that tariffs imposed during a second Trump administration would be directed primarily at China.

In a Fox News op-ed last week, Bessent said that tariffs are "a useful tool for achieving the president's foreign policy objectives. Whether it is getting allies to spend more on their own defense, opening foreign markets to U.S. exports, securing cooperation on ending illegal immigration and interdicting fentanyl trafficking, or deterring military aggression, tariffs can play a central role."

An advocate for imposing wide-ranging tariffs, Lutnick told CNBC in September that "tariffs are an amazing

tool for the president to use we need to protect the American worker."

On Saturday, Elon Musk, who has been an influential voice at Trump's side during the transition, came out in favor of Lutnick on his social media site X.

"My view fwiw is that Bessent is a business-as-usual choice, whereas @howardlutnick will actually enact change," Musk posted. "Business-as-usual is driving America bankrupt, so we need change."

Higher tariffs also carry serious risks for the incoming Trump presidency, despite Trump's promises to the public that they will lead to more factory jobs and stronger growth.

The import taxes could upset trade partners and start a trade war. They could anger investors and cause stocks to slide. They could alienate voters who backed Trump because of frustration over higher prices only to find that their coffee, T-shirts, cars and other goods all cost more.

In August, the economists Mary Lovely and Kimberly Claussing found that a 60% tariff on China and separate 20% universal tariff would cost a typical U.S. household \$2,600 annually. Corporate America is

keeping an anxious watch on Trump's transition operation at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida and trying to figure out how to respond in the meantime.

To be sure, picking one or the other doesn't mean Trump won't take a different path once in the White House, as was seen in his first term.

That has left companies telling investors that they're planning on a wide range of scenarios, with many focused on reducing their reliance on China.

When asked what policies Trump would require his treasury secretary to implement on day one, his transition team said it was focused on personnel choices.

"President-elect Trump is making decisions on who will serve in his second administration," said Caroline Leavitt, the transition spokeswoman and incoming White House press secretary. "Those decisions will continue to be announced by him when they are made."

Major companies going into this month's election were accepting of a degree of uncertainty on tariffs, saying that they were making plans for a range of outcomes.

Donald Allan, Jr., CEO of the tool-maker Stanley Black & Decker, said on an Oct. 29 earnings call that his company has been planning for the possibility of higher tariffs since the spring. He stressed there are still a lot of unknowns, but his company was unlikely to move more manufacturing jobs into the United States because "it's just not cost effective to do."

"What we don't know is which scenario is going to play out and exactly how that would be. Is it going to be just China? Is it going to be every country?" Allan said. "Those are all things that are to be determined."

Timothy Boyle, Chairman and CEO of Columbia Sportswear, said on his Oct. 30 earnings call that his company was "very concerned" about tariffs despite having a minimal exposure to Chinese imports. "We believe the arguments about tariffs improving the domestic production of items such as footwear and apparel are fallacious" Boyle said.

The furnishings and home goods store Williams Sonoma said about half of its imports came from China in 2018 when Trump was last president, a number that has since fallen to 25% and could drop further if tariffs are expanded.

But Constellation Brands, a producer and marketer of alcoholic beverages, noted that its business was up double digits four years in a row when Trump was last in the White House.

CEO William Newlands played down the risk that Trump would hit Mexico with tariffs, even though Trump has talked about new tariffs on Mexican factories and the country is preparing for that possibility.

Constellation is betting that Trump will mainly aim at China.

"The general belief is that if there was going to be a situation related to tariffs, it's highly likely that Mexico is not the main target it's China," Newlands said. □

Moscow warns the US over allowing Ukraine to hit Russian soil with longer-range weapons

By ILLIA NIKOV and

SAMYA KULLAB

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The Kremlin warned Monday that President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with U.S.-supplied longer-range missiles adds "fuel to the fire" of the war and would escalate international tensions even higher.

Biden's shift in policy added an uncertain, new factor to the conflict on the eve of the 1,000-day milestone since Russia began its full-scale invasion in 2022.

It also came as a Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of Sumy in northern Ukraine, killing 11 people and injuring 84 others. Another missile barrage sparked apartment fires in the southern port of Odesa, killing at least 10 people and injuring 43, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said.

Washington is easing limits on what Ukraine can strike with its American-made Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMs, U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO. The Kremlin was swift in its condemnation.

"It is obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps and they have been talking about this, to continue adding fuel to the fire and provoking further escalation of tensions around this conflict," said spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

The scope of the new firing guidelines isn't clear. But the change came after the U.S., South Korea and NATO said North Korean troops are in Russia and apparently are being deployed to help Moscow drive Ukrainian troops from Russia's Kursk border region.

Biden's decision almost entirely was triggered by North Korea's entry into the fight, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to dis-



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters extinguish the fire following a Russian rocket attack that hit a multi-storey apartment building in Sumy, Ukraine, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

cuss internal deliberations, and was made just before he left for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

Russia also is slowly pushing Ukraine's outnumbered army backward in the eastern Donetsk region. It has also conducted a devastating aerial campaign against civilian areas in Ukraine.

Peskov referred journalists to a statement from President Vladimir Putin in September in which he said allowing Ukraine to target Russia would significantly raise the stakes.

It would change "the very nature of the conflict dramatically," Putin said at the time. "This will mean that NATO countries the United States and European countries are at war with Russia." Peskov claimed that Western countries supplying longer-range weapons also provide targeting services to Kyiv. "This fundamentally changes the modality of their involvement in the conflict," he said.

Putin warned in June that Moscow could provide longer-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allowed Ukraine to use its allies' arms to attack Russian territory. After signing a treaty with North Korea, Putin issued an explicit

threat to provide weapons to Pyongyang, noting Moscow could mirror Western arguments that it's up to Ukraine to decide how to use them. "The Westerners supply weapons to Ukraine and say: 'We do not control anything here anymore and it does not matter how they are used,'" Putin had said. "Well, we can also say: 'We supplied something to someone -- and then we do not control anything.' And let them think about it." Putin had also reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty.

Biden's move will "mean the direct involvement of the United States and its satellites in military action against Russia, as well as a radical change in the essence and nature of the conflict," Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office Jan. 20, has raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue military support to Ukraine. He has also vowed to end the war quickly.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky gave a muted response Sunday to the approval that he and his government have been requesting for over a year,

adding, "The missiles will speak for themselves."

Consequences of the new policy are uncertain. ATACMS, which have a range of about 300 kilometers (190 miles), can reach far behind the about 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line in Ukraine, but they have relatively short range compared with other types of ballistic and cruise missiles. The policy change came "too late to have a major strategic effect," said Patrick Bury, a senior associate professor in security at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom.

"The ultimate kind of impact it will have is to probably slow down the tempo of the Russian offensives which are now happening," he said, adding that Ukraine could strike targets in Kursk or logistics hubs or command headquarters.

Jennifer Kavanagh, director of military analysis at Defense Priorities, agreed the U.S. move would not alter the war's course, noting Ukraine "would need large stockpiles of ATACMS, which it doesn't have and won't receive because the United States' own supplies are limited."

On a political level, the move "is a boost to the Ukrainians and it gives them a window of opportunity to

try and show that they are still viable and worth supporting" as Trump prepares to take office, said Matthew Savill, director of Military Sciences at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

The cue for the policy change was the arrival in Russia of North Korean troops, according to Glib Voloskyi, an analyst at the CBA Initiatives Center, a Kyiv-based think tank.

"This is a signal the Biden administration is sending to North Korea and Russia, indicating that the decision to involve North Korean units has crossed a red line," he said.

Russian lawmakers and state media bashed the West for what they called an escalatory step, threatening a harsh response.

"Biden, apparently, decided to end his presidential term and go down in history as 'Bloody Joe,'" lawmaker Leonid Slutsky told Russian news agency RIA Novosti. Vladimir Dzhabarov, deputy head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of parliament, called it "a very big step toward the start of World War III" and an attempt to "reduce the degree of freedom for Trump."

Russian newspapers offered similar predictions of doom. "The madmen who are drawing NATO into a direct conflict with our country may soon be in great pain," Rossiyskaya Gazeta said. Some NATO allies welcomed the move.

President Andrzej Duda of Poland, which borders Ukraine, praised the decision as a "very important, maybe even a breakthrough moment" in the war. "In the recent days, we have seen the decisive intensification of Russian attacks on Ukraine, above all, those missile attacks where civilian objects are attacked, where people are killed, ordinary Ukrainians," Duda said.

Easing restrictions on Ukraine was "a good thing," said Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna of Russian neighbor Estonia. □

NATO's newest members update their civil preparedness guides for risk of war

By JARI TANNER and

JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Sweden and Finland, which recently gave up neutrality and joined NATO following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, sent out updated civil preparedness guides on Monday with instructions how to survive in war. The guides are similar to those in Denmark and Norway, though none mentions Russia by name.

In January, Sweden's former military commander-in-chief Gen. Mikael Bydén said it openly: Swedes should mentally prepare for the possibility of war. Sweden in March formally joined NATO as the 32nd member of the transatlantic military alliance, nearly a year after Finland.

The updated Swedish guide explains how to respond to an attack with nu-



Sweden's Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin presents the new version of the booklet "If Crisis or War Comes" in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday Oct. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

clear, chemical or biological weapons: "Take cover in the same way as with an airstrike."

Shelters provide the best protection.

After a couple days, the radiation has decreased

sharply."

"It is no secret that the security situation has deteriorated since the previ-

ous brochure was issued in 2018," Civil Defense Minister Carl-Oskar Bohlin told a press conference last month. The Swedish Baltic Sea island of Gotland sits a little more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) from the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

In Finland, which shares a 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) land border with Russia, the guide is compiled by the government, which has stressed that "preparedness is a civic skill in the current global situation."

The Nordic countries all urge people to stockpile drinking water, canned food, medicine, heating, toilet paper, money and flashlights and candles. And if possible, keep the car fully refueled.

The checklist also includes iodine tablets, in case of a nuclear event. □

Abuse survivors urge the Vatican to globalize the zero-tolerance policy it approved in the U.S.

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Survivors of clergy sexual abuse urged the Vatican on Monday to expand its zero-tolerance policy that it approved for the U.S. Catholic Church in 2002 to the rest of the world, arguing that children everywhere should be protected from predator priests.

The U.S. norms, adopted

at the height of the abuse scandal there, say a priest will be permanently removed from church ministry based on even a single act of sexual abuse that is either admitted to or established under church law. That "one strike and you're out" policy in the U.S. has long stood out as the toughest in the church. It is held up by some as the gold standard, by others as

excessive and by still others as imperfect but better than most. It was adopted by U.S. bishops as they scrambled to try to regain credibility following the revelations of abuse and cover-up in Boston documented by the Boston Globe's "Spotlight" series.

Since then, the church abuse scandal has erupted globally, and survivors from around the world said Monday there's no reason why the U.S. norms couldn't and shouldn't be applied universally. They called for changes in the church's in-house canon law and reasoned they could be approved since the Holy See already approved the norms for the U.S. church.

"Despite Pope Francis' repeated calls for zero tolerance on abuse, his words have yet to lead to any real action," said Gemma Hickey, a transgender survivor of abuse and the president of the global survivor network Ending Clergy Abuse. The proposal launched at

a press conference was hammered out during an unusual meeting in June in Rome between survivors and some of the Catholic hierarchy's top priestly experts on preventing abuse. It was described by participants at the time as a "historic collaboration" between two groups that often talk past one another, given victims' deep distrust of the Catholic hierarchy.

The priestly participants in that meeting included the Rev. Hans Zollner, who heads the church's main academic think tank on safeguarding; the No. 2 at the Vatican's child protection advisory board, Bishop Luis Manuel Ali Herrera; and the Gregorian University's canon law dean, the Rev. Ulrich Rhode as well as diplomats from the U.S., Australian and other embassies.

However, there was apparently no one from the Vatican legal office, secretariat of state or the discipline section of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith,

which processes all abuse cases worldwide and largely sets policy on applying the church's canon law albeit in secret since its cases are never published. As a result, it was unclear what would become of the proposed policy changes, given the U.S. norms only came about because U.S. bishops pushed the Vatican to approve them, driven by their outraged flocks and insurance companies. Nicholas Cafardi, a U.S. canon lawyer who was an original member of the U.S. National Review Board that provided input to the 2002 U.S. norms, said globalizing that policy into universal church law "would be one of the logical next steps" for Francis to take to continue the fight against abuse.

But Cafardi, author of "Before Dallas," about the lead-up to the 2002 Dallas bishops' meeting that approved the norms, said that some bishops today bristle at how the policy limits their authority and freedom. □



Dave West, left, and his brother Larry West, both of Fort Worth, Texas, demonstrate outside the hotel where the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are meeting in Dallas on June 14, 2002.

Associated Press

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.



Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Florida (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupial, Sho-co, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreju di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



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By Urvin Croes

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Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines,



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Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila

A guide for the perfect picture Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're



at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind



the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



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Intro

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Aruba Today News

Adrian Lacé

LOCAL | The name Adrian Lacé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adrian Lacé was a rich businessman, well... See more

Due to technical difficulties, our Facebook Page was suspended and eventually removed, which is the reason you might have missed us these past few weeks. However, we are delighted to announce to all our followers that we are back, on our new account, Aruba Today News!

Scan the QR code or search up our new, updated page, to keep up to date with your favorite stories and all the information you need to know about our One Happy Island. Please like and share our new page, so that all our fans can find us for a happy reunion. □



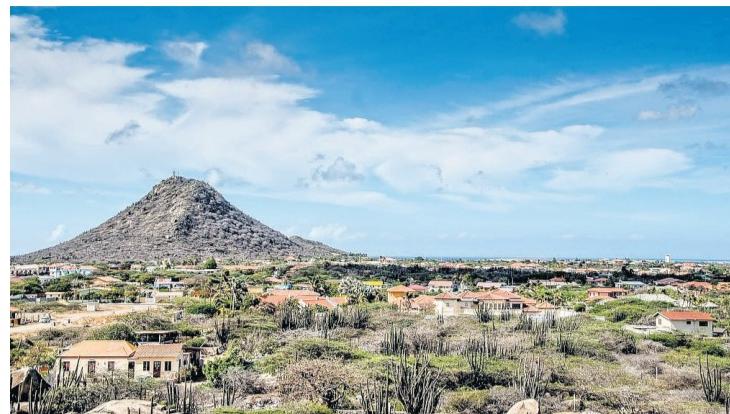
Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the

Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is



the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanaota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that runs on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps.

Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.



The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed



vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional



drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



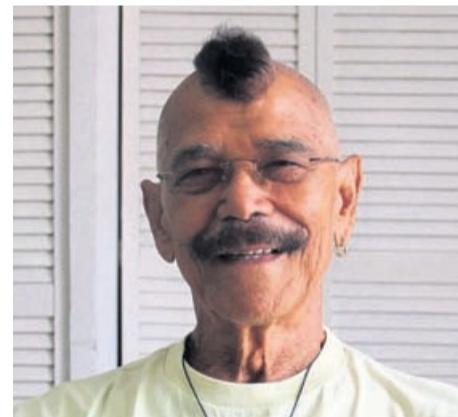
A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work.



It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according

to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down

pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

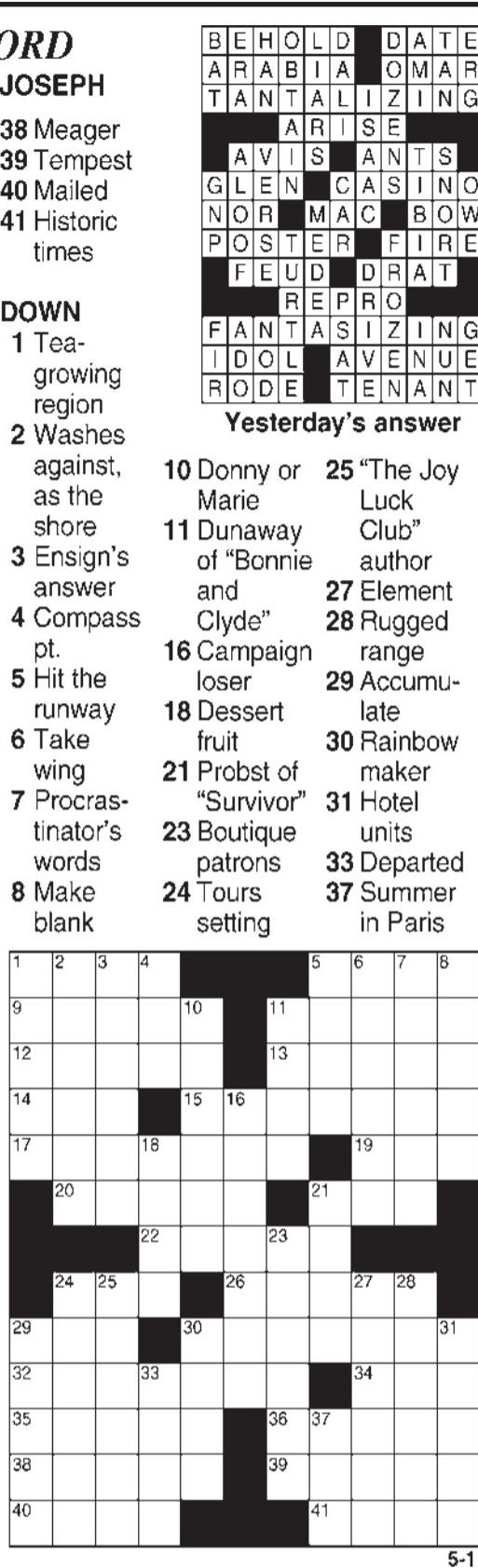
Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Weary word
 - 5 Road division
 - 9 Authority
 - 11 Smile upon
 - 12 Gushes forth
 - 13 "West Side Story" role
 - 14 Simile center
 - 15 Distress calls
 - 17 Ribbon-strewn staff
 - 19 Golf need
 - 20 Cold forecast
 - 21 Airport sight
 - 22 Pueblo material
 - 24 Way off
 - 26 Elizabethan collars
 - 29 Tattoo setting
 - 30 Fashionable London area
 - 32 Herb-flavored German punch
 - 34 Corp. bigwig
 - 35 Poker payments
 - 36 Stylishly quaint
- DOWN**
- 1 Tea-growing region
 - 2 Washes against, as the shore
 - 3 Ensign's answer
 - 4 Compass pt.
 - 5 Hit the runway
 - 6 Take wing
 - 7 Procrastinator's words
 - 8 Make blank
 - 10 Donny or Marie
 - 11 Dunaway of "Bonnie and Clyde"
 - 16 Campaign loser
 - 18 Dessert fruit
 - 21 Probst of "Survivor"
 - 23 Boutique patrons
 - 24 Tours setting
 - 25 "The Joy Luck Club" author
 - 27 Element
 - 28 Rugged range
 - 29 Accumulate
 - 30 Rainbow maker
 - 31 Hotel units
 - 33 Departed
 - 37 Summer in Paris



A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-1

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G Z P J K M L Q X R K M X S

L U D L E K G K P X R , K M L Q X R K M

X S F P J M L J , K M L Q X R K M X S

M X D L . — L Q P W Z V O X R K L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN FOOLS — SELF-CONFIDENCE, MY FRIENDS CALL IT. — EDGAR ALLAN POE



Yesterday's answer

Cruise ship Schedule: November 11 - 21 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
MON	11	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL PRIDE	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C 1 1
TUE	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON CELEBRITY ASCENT FREEWINDS	08.00 11.30 06.00	22.00 21.00 ****	C I E 1
WED	13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00 10.30	18.00 21.00	B C 1 1
FRI	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C 1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -
TUE	19	CARNIVAL MAGIC FREEWINDS	09.00 06.00	22.00 ****	C E 1
THU	21	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

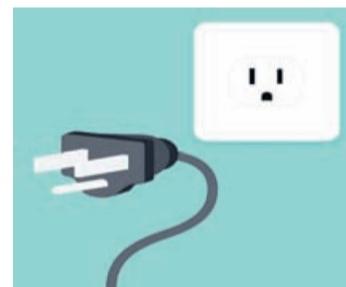
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Company affiliated with Alex Jones seeks to disqualify The Onion's auction bid on Infowars



Right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones speaks to the media after arriving at the federal courthouse for a hearing in front of a bankruptcy judge, Friday, June 14, 2024, in Houston.

Associated Press.

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

A company affiliated with conspiracy theorist Alex Jones asked a federal judge on Monday to disqualify a bid by the satirical news outlet The Onion to buy Jones' Infowars at a bankruptcy auction, alleging fraud and collusion. The company, First United American Companies, which is affiliated with a Jones website that sells dietary supplements, was the only other bidder at the recent auction, offering \$3.5 million. In a filing in federal bankruptcy court in Houston, a lawyer for the company asked the judge to declare it the winning bidder instead of The Onion.

The lawyer, Walter Cicack, claimed that the bankruptcy trustee overseeing the auction improperly colluded with The Onion and families of victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut in naming The Onion the winning bidder. Cicack also alleged the trustee violated rules for the sale set by the judge, and said the company's cash offer was twice the amount of The Onion's. The bankruptcy auction was held last week as part

of the liquidation of Jones' assets, including Infowars. Proceeds from the sale will go to Sandy Hook families and other creditors. Jones filed bankruptcy in 2022 after he was ordered to pay nearly \$1.5 billion in defamation lawsuits filed by the families for calling the 2012 shooting that killed 20 children and six educators a hoax staged by actors to increase gun control. Ben Collins, CEO of The Onion's parent company, Chicago-based Global Tetrahedron, issued a statement Monday through a spokes-

person.

"We're obviously disappointed he's lashing out by creating conspiracies, but we're also not surprised," he said, referring to Jones. The bankruptcy trustee appointed to oversee the sale, Christopher Murray, declined to comment Monday. A lawyer for the Sandy Hook families, Christopher Mattei, also declined to comment.

In a response filed in court later Monday, Murray called the allegations "baseless." He said the motion by First United Ameri-

can to disqualify The Onion was "a disappointed bidder's improper attempt to influence an otherwise fair and open auction process."

Murray also wrote, "Having failed in its prior efforts to bully the Trustee and his advisors into accepting its inferior bid, FUAC now alleges, without evidence, collusion and bad faith in an attempt to mislead the Court and disqualify its only competition in the auction."

Monday's filing by First United American Companies included the formal bid submitted by The Onion, revealing that it offered \$1.75 million for Infowars along with certain incentives by Sandy Hook families who won their defamation lawsuit against Jones. The families agreed to forgo up to 100% of their share of the Infowars sale proceeds and give it to other Jones creditors.□



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Hollywood stars gather for honorary Oscars event celebrating Quincy Jones, Bond producers, more

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The family of Quincy Jones was not sure they wanted to attend the Governors Awards.

Their father died two weeks before he could accept his second honorary Oscar, alongside Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, filmmaker Richard Curtis and casting director Juliet Taylor.

But the Jones family decided to show up for the event Sunday night in Hollywood for a celebration of his life and work with humor from Jamie Foxx, a rousing performance by Jennifer Hudson and a moment with his family: His daughter Rashida Jones even read the speech he had been working on up until a month ago.

"We felt like we wanted to celebrate his beautiful life and career," she said. "His music has literally defined an entire century of culture spanning genres."

It was a moving end to a celebratory evening that had Hugh Grant roasting Curtis for getting a "kind of Oscar" and Daniel Craig celebrating the legacy of the James Bond films.

The audience in the Ray Dolby Ballroom was starrier than even the Oscars. The event, put on by the film academy's board of governors, is also a de-facto campaign stop for Oscar hopefuls as awards season gets underway.

Everywhere you looked there were famous faces greeting one another: Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson at the bar ordering a margarita on the rocks; Jude Law and Kristen Wiig exchanging hellos; Zooey Deschanel sipping champagne; Brooklyn Beckham and Nicola Peltz Beckham wandering around; Saoirse Ronan and Elizabeth Olsen deep in conversation; Sharon Stone hugging Kieran Culkin; Jesse Eisenberg chatting with Elle Fanning; and Jeremy Strong taking a selfie with Guy Pearce.

Others remained near their



Richard Curtis, from left, Michael G. Wilson, Juliet Taylor, Martina Jones, Rashida Jones, Kenya Kinski-Jones, Quincy Jones III, and Barbara Broccoli pose with their awards during the 15th Governors Awards on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Associated Press.

seats, like Jennifer Lawrence, June Squibb and Angelina Jolie, who attended alongside her son Knox Jolie-Pitt. They sat beside her "Maria" director Pablo Larraín and across from "His Three Daughters" stars Natasha Lyonne and Olson. At another table, Barry Keoghan kept making his way to Margarot Qualley's side, squeezing in between her and Demi Moore.

But most of the schmoozing subsided for the main event. With no television cameras or band to play anyone off during a speech, it is a night during which friends and colleagues can pay tribute to the year's honorary Oscar recipients.

Broccoli and her brother Wilson followed in her father's footsteps receiving the rarely given Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, celebrating the work of producers. Albert "Cubby" Broccoli accepted his own trophy, then a bust of Thalberg, at the 1982 Academy Awards as they looked on from the audience.

"It's heavier than I thought," Wilson said, holding the Oscar statuette.

Broccoli also commented on the importance of producers, a credit she said that lately is being handed



Jamie Foxx speaks during the 15th Governors Awards on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Associated Press.

out like party favors. They got some gentle ribbing from Craig beforehand. Broccoli, he said, "cackles, I mean, crackles with passion." But for a man who has always had a seemingly conflicted relationship with his Bond era, his admiration for them was evident.

"I can't tell you how much I admire your integrity," Craig said. "These (Bond movies) are the most expensive independent films ever made."

Grant was less delicate but infinitely funnier paying tribute to Curtis, who has written for and directed him in many films including "Four

Weddings and a Funeral," "Notting Hill" and "Love, Actually."

"Would we call it an Oscar? It's a kind of Oscar," Grant said. "It's a better than nothing Oscar."

Curtis may be best known for his contributions to romantic comedies, but the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award was for a lifetime of charitable work, which Grant said was "annoying and frankly selfish."

In his acceptance speech, Curtis made a plea to the room to set aside a small portion of film budgets to hire an impact producer. Nicole Kidman presented the honorary Oscar to Tay-

lor, a casting director unaccustomed to being publicly celebrated for her contributions to cinema. In her career of more than four decades, she cast classics like "Annie Hall," "Working Girl," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Schindler's List." Squibb, at the event with her "Thelma" director Josh Margolin, said that Taylor cast her in her first film, Woody Allen's "Alice."

"I don't know if I'd have a career in motion pictures without it," Squibb said.

While Taylor was excited about her award, she was even happier that her peers are soon going to be regularly recognized. Starting with films released in 2025, the film academy will give a new competitive Oscar to casting directors.

There were many somber references throughout the evening to the events of the "last few weeks," although no one speaking from the stage said anything much more specific. Jamie Foxx, introducing the Quincy Jones tribute, did his own little impersonation of President Elect Donald Trump.

"Why is everyone so down on these few weeks," he said.

Foxx quickly got back on track to speak about Jones, whose celebration closed out the evening on a cathartic note.

"He was really excited to attend tonight," Rashida Jones said. "He has so many friends in this room. Well, actually, probably in every room to be honest because wherever he went he made connections with everyone. Real ones. He knew how to stay present, to stay curious, to stay loving."

Jones invited the audience to listen on the way home, to go for the deepest cuts.

"There's an entire universe waiting in his seven decades of music," she said. "And while you listen, hear him, hear how he imbued love into every single second of music he made. That was his real legacy: Love." □

Rafael Nadal will retire after the Davis Cup with plenty of records and big numbers by his name

By The Associated Press

MALAGA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal was just 18 and yet to win a Grand Slam title when he first moved into the top 10 of the ATP rankings on April 25, 2005. He remained there for 912 consecutive weeks, until March 19, 2023, nearly 18 full years, the longest run of appearances in the top 10 in the half-century-plus history of the computerized rankings in men's tennis. That's just one of many records and key numbers associated with the 38-year-old Nadal's remarkable career, which will come to an end after the Davis Cup Final 8. Nadal and Spain face the Netherlands in the team competition's quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Here is a look at some of Nadal's statistics, according to the ATP and the International Tennis Federation: 22 Grand Slam titles, second among men to Novak Djokovic's 24. 14 championships at the French Open, the most at any Grand Slam tournament by a man or woman



Spain's Rafael Nadal serves to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament, at the Roland Garros stadium, June 3, 2005 in Paris.

Associated Press.

112-4 career win-loss record at Roland Garros

A career Grand Slam, including four titles at the U.S. Open and two apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open

29-1 in Davis Cup singles play entering Tuesday, a .967 winning percentage

that is the highest for anyone who has played at least 15 matches

tour-level matches, second among men to Djokovic's .835

1,080-227 career record in tour-level singles matches entering Tuesday gives him the fourth-most wins

826 winning percentage in

among men in the Open era, which dates to 1968, behind Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,251) and Djokovic (1,124). 92 titles, the fifth most among men in the Open era, trailing Connors (109), Federer (103), Djokovic (99) and Ivan Lendl (94). 209 weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings, the sixth-most ever.

Five years finishing at No. 1 in the rankings (2008, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2019) and eight years finishing at No. 2 (2005-07, 2009, 2011, 2018, 2020 and 2022).

Two Olympic gold medals, in singles in 2008 and doubles in 2016.

At least one tour-level title for 19 consecutive seasons from 2004 through 2022, tied with Djokovic.

23 victories against a man ranked No. 1 at the time, the most since ATP computerized rankings began in 1973.

63 clay-court titles, the most for a man in the Open era. 410 wins at ATP Masters 1000 tournaments, tied with Djokovic for the most. □

Broncos might finally have a franchise QB as Bo Nix improves by the week

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — After a slow start, Denver Broncos rookie quarterback Bo Nix is earning NFL honors and victories by the week.

Nix had his best game so far Sunday, setting season highs in completion rate (84.4 percent), yards passing (307) and touchdown throws (four) with an efficient 28-for-33 performance that stoked Denver's 38-6 rout of the Atlanta Falcons.

Throw in his 145.0 QB rating, and Nix joined Texans QB C.J. Stroud (2023) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least 300 passing yards, four passing touchdowns and a passer rating of at least 140 in a game.

Nix was the NFL's Offense Rookie of the Month in October and last week he

won the league's Offensive Rookie of the Week award coming off a loss at Arrowhead, where he outplayed star Patrick Mahomes in Week 10.

Now, there's chatter about him in the race for the AP Offensive Rookie of the

Year award. Forget that, suggested cornerback Patrick Surtain II.

"I told him, 'Man, you're trying to win MVP,'" Surtain said. "It's not even looking like Offensive Rookie of the Year, it's looking like MVP now."

Overstatement or not, it sure looks as if the Broncos (6-5) finally have found their franchise quarterback, the likes of which they haven't had since Hall of Famer Peyton Manning's four brilliant seasons in Denver from 2012-15.

Since Manning's retirement after winning Super Bowl 50, the Broncos have churned through draft picks Trevor Siemian, Paxton Lynch and Drew Lock, free agents Case Keenum, Joe Flacco and trade acquisitions Teddy Bridgewater and Russell Wilson. Of that group, only Siemian had a winning record in a Broncos uniform. With Sunday's win, Nix's six victories are a franchise rookie record, besting the five Hall of Famer John Elway had in 1983 and Lock matched in 2019.

What's working

The offense. It's found a nice rhythm with Nix throwing precision passes and coach Sean Payton calling a creative game. On Sunday, the Broncos put up points on six of nine drives.

What needs help

It's hard to nitpick a team that dominated all three phases. On offense, nine players caught at least one pass, six players carried the ball for a total of 105 yards and a 4-yard average per carry. On defense, the Broncos held Atlanta out of the end zone, had four sacks and an interception and held the Falcons to just 4 of 13 on third down. Alex Forsyth and Matt Peart switched spots on the left side of the kick protection unit after their debacle in K.C. and Wil Lutz was good on a 45-yard field goal and five extra points. □



Denver Broncos quarterback Bo Nix (10) runs out of the pocket against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press.

Suzuki and Sabathia among 14 newcomers on baseball Hall of Fame ballot. Wagner tops holdovers

By The Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Outfielder Ichiro Suzuki and pitcher CC Sabathia are among 14 new candidates on the Hall of Fame ballot released Monday, joining 14 holdovers led by reliever Billy Wagner.

Pitcher Félix Hernández, outfielder Carlos González and infielders Dustin Pedroia and Hanley Ramírez also are among the newcomers joined by reliever Fernando Rodney, second baseman Ian Kinsler, second baseman/outfielder Ben Zobrist, shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, catchers Russell Martin and Brian McCann, and outfielders Curtis Granderson and Adam Jones.



Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki heads to first base after hitting a single against the Cleveland Indians during the third inning of a baseball game March 31, 2018, in Seattle.

Associated Press.

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was dropped after receiving 246 votes and 63.9% in his 10th and final year on the ballot. He will be eligible for consideration when the ballot is selected for the committee that considered contemporary era players in December 2025. BBWAA members with 10 or more consecutive years of membership are eligible to vote. Ballots must be postmarked by Dec. 31 and results will be announced Jan. 23. Anyone elected will be inducted on July 27 along with anyone chosen Dec. 8 by the hall's classic baseball committee considering eight players and managers whose greatest contributions to the sport were before 1980.

Suzuki in 2001 joined Fred Lynn in 1975 as the only players to win AL Rookie of the Year and AL MVP in the same season. Suzuki was a two-time AL batting champion and 10-time Gold Glove winner, hitting .311 with 117 homers, 780 RBIs and 509 stolen bases with Seattle (2001-12, 2018-19), the New York Yankees (2012-14) and Miami (2015-17). He had a record 262 hits in 2004. Sabathia was a six-time All-Star, won the 2007 AL Cy Young Award and a World Series title in 2009. He was 251-161 with a 3.74 ERA and 3,093 strikeouts, third among left-handers behind Randy Johnson and Steve Carlton, during 19 seasons with Cleveland (2001-08), Milwaukee (2008) and the New York Yankees (2009-19). □



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia throws during the fourth inning of the team's baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, July 16, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press.